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From: yscuba@californiadiivers.com [<mailto:yscuba@californiadiivers.com>]

Sent: Friday, December 07, 2007 2:43 PM

To: MLPAComments; Melissa Miller-Henson

Subject: MPA Recommendations

Dear Members of the Blue Ribbon Taskforce,

I am writing to recommend for your consideration, areas for protection in a State Marine Reserve in the North Central Coast. It is my understanding the External Proposal "C" recommends that Gerstle Cove be included in a State Marine Reserve. It is my opinion that the Lat-Lon coordinates for the Southeastern boundary for the Gerstle Cove SMR should be: N38 33.45 W123 19.54 Image #: 200504462 in the Coastal Records Project Website: <http://www.californiacoastline.org> Go to this site and plug in the image number in the "search" box.

Salt Point State Park, Gerstle Cove is at: N38 33.77 W123 20.10 Image number: 200504455

Research diving has shown that the abalone spawning drift to the Northern side of the Walls in the coves south of Gerstle Cove. The young, one inch and smaller abalone, which are the results of the currents flowing from Gerstle Cove and use these southern coves for growth. Gerstle Cove is used as a recovery site for abalone captured from pouchers, and abalone density counts has shown the rich abundance of very large abalone feeding the southern coastline. I have personally done research diving in these areas and have written papers on these studies. If there is any area worth protecting for the marine life protection, the Gerstle Cove, and coves south from it, are high priority areas in need of your advocacy.

In addition, a SMR should be established at Fort Ross. Fort Ross and Gerstle Cove are the most popular, most useable areas for nonconsumptive use. People can walk onto the beach with their tanks, weight belts in wetsuits. Also kayaks and small boats can be driven down the ramp and onto the beach at Fort Ross. Making this cove a SMR would not hinder nor deny access to consumptive sportsmen, but would protect the resources within the cove for nonconsumptive use. These are the most used, and probably the only sites used, for open water training with beach access, with rest room facilities, and enforcement personnel nearby.

These areas are also very heavily over used for group competitions. The tournaments are held "un-officially" since DFG is reluctant to authorize frequent monthly group competitions in such small areas. Giving these areas SMR protection would give these areas higher protection, while allowing others to still access to other areas for consumptive use.

Please give these areas your most serious consideration and provide them with SMR status.